

authorities regarding the breeding of two closely allied species of White Wagtail.

Although the general consensus of opinion is, that Hodgson's is the only species breeding within Indian Empire limits, yet one authority claims that the Masked Wagtail also breeds commonly in Kashmir. The striking similarity shown by the males of four species of this family and their presence in numbers all over India during the winter months urges one to centre interest on each bird in the legions of pied Wagtails seen here during the breeding season. Up-to-date I have never found a nest of the Masked Wagtail, in spite of hopes often raised by the appearance of a wagtail, which may prove to be the Masked Wagtail, in an area where another female wagtail was brooding her eggs. This keys up one's hopes to the possibility that the newly alighted grey-backed bird might be its male owner and thus give sufficient proof that the nest was indeed that of the Masked Wagtail. Time and again these hopes have been dashed to the ground by the casual arrival at the nest of the male Hodgson's, proving that newcomer was not the rightful owner of the nest, but possibly another stray Hodgson's female. The close resemblance between the male Masked Wagtail and Hodgson's female makes such supposition possible.

## ON PESCHETIUS GUIGNOT (COL., DYTISCIDAE) WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES FROM INDIA.

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*Peschetius* Guignot (1935).

Guignot, 1935, Rev. franç. Ent., 2, 131.

This genus was erected to include the Indian species, *Hydroporus quadricostatus* Aubé, and the two African species, *Hydroporus carinipennis* Rég. mbart and *nodieri* Rég. mbart. Unfortunately Guignot omitted to cite a genotype and by so doing technically invalidated his creation of the genus according to Article 25 as amended at the International Zoological Congress in Budapest, 1927. The genus is certainly to be accepted as distinct and I hereby cite *Hydroporus quadricostatus* Aubé as genotype in order to give it validity.

The generic characters adduced, in the first place by Peschet (Voy. Guy Babault en Afr. or. angl., 1921, 14-15), are:—Coxal lines cariniform, limiting between them a deep depression, wide in the middle; first ventrite with large deep foveoles to the number of two or three in *carinipennis* Rég. and *nodieri* Rég. and from six to seven in *quadricostatus* Aubé; second and third ventrites

fused, the suture separating them only barely visible laterally; second ventrite on either side of the middle line with a deep semicircular impression serving as cavity for the trochanter and base of femur of hind legs; third ventrite sub-tectiform, strongly elevated at the apex; three terminal ventrites seen laterally not on the same plane as the three anterior.' To these are added by Guignot:—'First antennal segment much longer than the second, the epipleurs reaching the apex of the elytra.'

The force of the characters listed above is by no means uniform and the two characters suggested by Guignot, the second being strongly stressed by him, do not appear to me to advance the principal character mentioned by Peschet—the unusual coxal lines—since certain species of *Deronectes* s. str.—*bicostatus* Schaum—have the basal segment of the antennae distinctly longer than the second and the epipleurs cannot be said to attain the apex (sommet) of the elytra to a greater extent than some *Deronectes*.

Two further characters not mentioned by either author appear to me to be of primary importance, viz.:—the ridge on the inner face of the elytra terminates in a distinct waved or double ligula and at the base also develops a distinct lobe; the hind coxae are much more developed than in *Deronectes*, the metasternal wing being distinctly arched and of an almost uniform thickness nearly up to the apex. Neither of these characters is to be found in any group of *Deronectes* and to them may be added the total absence of a true pronotal margin, a state almost reached by some species of the compared genus although in all of them a distinct trace remains near the anterior angles. A further feature is seen in the unusual course of the true elytral margin near the shoulder where it dips down very sharply so that the epipleur appears to be very nearly parallel-sided to the level of the first ventrite, a structure entirely peculiar to the genus among the *Hydroporinae*. It also deserves comment that the epipleurs are throughout coarsely punctured; the hind femora impunctate; the hind tibiae have two longitudinal rows of piliferous punctures on the infero-external face, the rest of the surface being reticulate, impunctate; and that the spurs of the hind tibiae are unequal.

Guignot suggests that the genus should be placed near *Antiporus* and *Macroporus*, chiefly on the character of the epipleurs. Although, as I have shewn, the force of the character of the epipleurs is not very great it does appear that the genus is best placed between *Antiporus* and *Necterosoma*, with each of which it has many affinities. The following new species is to be added to the three already included:—

**Peschetius andrewesi** sp. n.

(*Deronectes andrewesi* Régimbart in coll.)

(*Deronectes belli* Régimbart in coll.)

Elongate-oval, subdepressed, rufo-ferruginous; head broadly black from the posterior margin of the eyes almost to the anterior margin of the fronto-clypeus, the vertex rufo-ferruginous; frons moderately densely and shallowly, coarsely punctured, the interstices of the punctuation about equal to the diameter of the punctures, more or less obsoletely microreticulate, the punctures gradually decreasing in size and somewhat sparser towards the anterior margin; on either side with a large shallow fronto-clypeal depression; vertex strongly, almost shagrinately microreticulate, the meshes absolutely regular, impunctate. *Antennae* long, the basal segment at least as long as the two following taken together, the fifth, sixth and seventh segments also rather elongate, sub-equal, rufo-flavous. *Pronotum* transverse, the sides widely rounded, quite unmarginated, with a shallow longitudinal impression on each side, well separated from the edge and a sub-basal transverse impression connecting on either side with the longitudinal impressions, posterior angles slightly obtuse; closely, regularly and uniformly punctured, the punctures separated by about their diameters, the interstices dull microreticulate; rufo-ferruginous, a small black basal mark on either side of the middle line; scutellar lobe very slightly developed, the hind margin being only slightly rounded in the scutellar region; prosternal process large, strongly laterally compressed, strongly rounded, not carinate tectiform (c.f. *quadricostatus* Aubé), the apex bluntly rounded, lateral margins obsolete; intercoxal piece of the prosternum without a transverse step or rugae. *Elytra* elongate-oval, sides very slightly rounded and widened to the middle, widely

rounded posteriorly, weakly acuminate at the apex; as wide basally as the base of the pronotum but the angle of junction of margin with the edge of the pronotum very pronounced owing to the abrupt upward curve of the epipleural margin; two longitudinal costae, the inner straight and commencing directly behind the base of the elytra and attaining to four-fifths of their length, the outer one beginning some distance behind the shoulder and running almost parallel to the inner one for three-quarters of its length and then widely rounded convergent to join the inner costa at its apex; margin abruptly curved upwards at the shoulder; epipleurae and dorsum punctured and sculptured as on the pronotum; rufo-ferrugineous with the black pattern common to all the species of the genus *venter* rufo-ferrugineous, the edge of the hind coxae and abdominal ventrites infuscate; metasternum and hind coxae sculptured as on the dorsum, the impression between the coxal lines almost impunctate, shining; basal abdominal ventrite with seven to eight shallow oval, sharply impressed foveae on either side of the middle line, their cavities microreticulate; second and third ventrites fused, the second with five similar foveae and numerous large punctures on either side of the middle line, the middle line rather pinched, almost carinate at the base; sixth ventrite dull, microreticulate, the edge strongly, the disc very finely punctate (c.f. *quadricostatus* Aubé). *Legs* moderately long, the tarsi of the male slightly more dilated than in the female on the anterior and intermediate legs, fourth segment small but distinct, fifth quite elongate, as long as the second and third segments taken together; claws simple in both sexes.

Type.—India: Nilgiri Hills (*H. L. Andrews* coll.). (*Deronectes andrewesi* Reg. n. sp. typ., Regimbart det.). Paratypes.—3 specimens, same particulars as type. 2 specimens, S. India: B.M. 61-20—Coimbatore, Koondah Hills or Nilgiri Hills (*M. J. Walhouse* coll.). 2 specimens, India: (without further particulars), (B.M. 67-56, ex coll. Hamlet Clark.). 6 specimens, India: Khandesh (*T. R. Bell* coll., ex coll. *H. L. Andrews*), (*Deronectes belli* Reg. n. sp. typ., Regimbart det.). 1 specimen, India: Igatpuri, 2,000 ft. (ex coll. *H. L. Andrews*).

Size.—2.9-3.35 mm. long, 1.5-1.6 mm. lat.

(All specimens are in the British Museum.)

This new species is very similar to the three already described. It may easily be distinguished from *quadricostatus* (Aubé) by the black fronto-clypeus and the dull, microreticulate, much more finely punctured sixth ventrite. From the two African species it may be separated by the greater number of foveae on the first ventrite, and from *exeri* (Rég.) it is further separated by the black fronto-clypeus whilst *exsupennis* (Rég.) lacks the post-humeral extension of the sub-nasal black band to the margin, possessing instead a longitudinal band along the outer edge of the inner carina which joins the discal black band.

The lateral lobes (parameres) of the aedeagus are of a form unusual in the *Hydroporinae*, in which they are frequently hooked at the apex. In *Peschetius* they are terminated by a weakly inflated elongate rounded lobe provided with numerous long hairs along the inner face, a type normally found in the *Colymbetinae*. The significance of this character in a group otherwise indubitably Hydroporine is not yet apparent.

I am unable to add any distinctions between *andrewesi* and *belli* (Rég. i. 1) and dissection has shewn the aedeagus to be identical and accordingly I have adopted the form name for the species.